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P.L.A.F. LAUNCH NEW WAVE OF SUCCESSFUL WIDESPREAD ATTACKS

★ TRAIN OF DISASTERS FOR U.S.-PUPPETS IN TAY NINH PROVINCE:

From Aug. 18 to Aug. 22, More Than 1,000 Men Killed, Wounded or Captured and 150 Armoured Cars and 24 Heavy Artillery Pieces Destroyed. Hecatomb of U.S. Tanks and A.P.C.'s on Tay Ninh—Dau Tieng Route.

★ RENEWED ATTACKS ON ENEMY INSTALLATIONS IN SAIGON AND SOME 20 OTHER CITIES AND URBAN CENTRES **(Aug. 21 and 22).**

★ NEW DISASTROUS BLOW TO U.S. RIVERINE TASK FORCES IN BEN TRE PROVINCE:

25 Vessels Sunk or Set Ablaze and 710 Men (570 G.I.'s) Killed or Wounded (Aug. 14-16).

★ **Aug. 14, Black Day for U.S.-Puppets in Xuan Loc Area: 600 Men Put out of Action and 16 Aircraft and Helicopters and 12 Armoured Vehicles Destroyed.**

★ **A Position of the First Air Cavalry Razed to the Ground Near Quang Tri on Aug. 16; 310 G.I.'s Killed or Wounded and 31 Armoured Cars and Trucks Destroyed.**

★ **Once Again, the Enemy Had to Pull out of the A So Region After Having Lost 900 Men and 22 Choppers.**

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Many Happy Returns to Vice-President Ton Duc Thang on His 80th Birthday

D.R.V.N. Vice-President Ton Duc Thang was born on August 20, 1888 in a poor family at My Hoa Hung village, Long Xuyen province, South Viet Nam.

In 1910, he got a job in a French-run engineering workshop and began his revolutionary activities. In 1914, hunted down by the colonialists, he had to flee to France and later was engaged as a mechanic in the French Navy.

Following the triumph of the Russian October Revolution, the imperialists joined forces for an armed intervention in Russia in an effort to kill the newly-founded Soviet Republic. Drafted into the interventionist armed forces which attached Sebastopol on the shore of the Black Sea, he took part in a mutiny staged by armymen and workers on French warships. He had the honour to hoist the red flag on one of these warships to greet the first proletarian State.

In 1920, he returned home to continue his revolutionary activities. In 1926, he was one of the first members of the "League of Revolutionary Vietnamese Youth" — predecessor of the present Viet Nam Workers' Party — and was elected to the Nam Ky Committee.

In late 1929, he was arrested by the French colonialists, sentenced to 20 years' hard labour and deported to the Island of Poulo Condor. For nearly 16 years, despite the rigours of a convict's life, he never failed to uphold the spirit of staunchness, unsubmissiveness and relentless struggle.

After the August 1945 Revolution, he was brought back to the mainland by the People's State. Since then he has been working side by side with President Ho Chi Minh and has been entrusted with many important tasks: Inspector General of the Government, Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee, President of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, Vice-President of the D.R.V.N., etc...

For his great service to the nation, he was the first to receive D.R.V.N. highest honour—the Gold Star Medal.

As an outstanding fighter of the World Peace Movement, he has been elected member of the World Peace Council and in 1955 he was awarded the "International Lenin Prize for the Promotion of Peace and Friendship between Nations."

In recognition of his distinguished service in defence of Soviet power during the Civil War, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. in 1967 conferred on him the Lenin Order, the highest in the Soviet Union.

Over the past 60 years and more, Vice-President Ton Duc Thang has been working tirelessly for national liberation, for socialism and communism in Viet Nam and for the emancipation of the working class in the whole world.

We are very proud of Vice-President Ton Duc Thang, the oldest member of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, and sincerely wish him good health and long life.

Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces' Second Confab Passes Important Political Programme

ON July 30 and 31, 1968, somewhere near Saigon-Cholon, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces held its Second Conference under the chairmanship of Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao.

A communiqué released by the Conference gave, in its first part, an analysis of the situation as assessed by delegates after discussion of the report by Professor Duong Ky, Secretary General of the Alliance's Central Committee.

"The U.S. and the Saigon puppet administration have sustained heavier and heavier setbacks, and are in an all-round stalemate" said the communiqué.

(Continued page 4)

Electioneering in the U.S.A.

What Solution to the Viet Nam Problem?

THE presidential election campaign is in full swing in the United States. As may be expected, the problem of the war in Viet Nam is given pride of place. It supplies the key to the solution of many important problems: social and racial violence, the dollar crisis, etc...

The Americans recall with bitterness Johnson's electoral promises in 1964, and his famous three P's: Peace, Prosperity, and Progress. The "special war" against the Vietnamese people was then considered a "painless war," and Johnson was still able to hold out glamourous prospects for his Great Society, where one could have guns and butter on one and the same plate. "We are not about," he declared, "to send American boys 9-10,000 miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves."

A PAINFUL WAR

HARDLY had a year passed since that winter 1964 when events in Viet Nam took a sharp turn. The war was no longer "their" war, i.e. one waged by the Saigon puppets, as the late John F. Kennedy had wished. It had become a truly American war, and has grown more and more with each passing day: from 20,000 men in 1964, the U.S. build-up has swollen to an expeditionary corps numbering at present nearly 550,000. American statistics admit that some 200,000 ...young Americans have been either killed or crippled, many for the rest of their lives. Each year, at least thirty billion dollars go down the drain. Good-bye to all the demagogic projects of the Great Society, a good part of which meant to placate the discontented Negroes!

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WHAT SOLUTION...

(Continued from page 1)

As a result, one hot summer has succeeded another, racial riots have grown ever fiercer, especially since the murder of the well-known leader of non-violence, Dr Martin Luther King. Under the burden of war expenditures, the dollar totters. Because of a continual gold outflow, the 25% legal cover for banknotes in circulation has been cancelled.

Weakened on the international economic and financial plan, the U.S.A. has been ever more isolated politically. No "respectable" ally has followed her in her Viet Nam venture, while its odious image as an international gendarme, the enemy of the peoples, has never been so patent to the Third World.

For all its costs, the Viet Nam war is far from having brought any laurels to the Democratic leaders in the White House. On the contrary, every man in his senses will share President Ho Chi Minh's opinion: "The defeat of the American aggressors is a foregone conclusion." The crash of the guns of the *Tet* offensives has tolled the knell of the U.S. neo-colonialist undertaking.

In a document just made public, Senator Joseph S. Clark has given the following assessment of the war:

"Viet Nam is a cancer which is devouring our youth, our morals, our national wealth, and the energies of our leadership. The casualty list from this war only begins on the battlefield. As victims we must also count the programs of the Great Society, the balance of payments, a sound budget, a stable dollar, the world's good will, detente with the Soviet Union, and hopes for a durable world peace. The toll of this war can never be measured in terms of lives lost and dollars spent. They are only the tip of an iceberg whose bulk can never be accurately measured. We are not likely to end the war by a military victory. This has been amply demonstrated by the recent V.C. offensive."

In short, neither Peace, Prosperity, nor Progress, on account of this dirty war in Viet Nam: such is the lie of the land for the United States after four years of exercise of power by Johnson.

JOHNSON'S "CARBON COPY"

ECHOING the anger of the Americans, the presidential candidates, those of the Democratic Party included, have not been sparing of criticisms against the Johnson-Humphrey team, whom they rightly hold mainly responsible for the present dire straits of the U.S.A.

An exception is Hubert Horatio Humphrey, himself a candidate.

Humphrey was already well known in the 1950's for his approval of measures taken by the American authorities at that time involving the U.S.A. in the French colonialists' Indochina war. He repeatedly declared that "the loss of Viet Nam would be a tragedy for the free world." On August 23, 1960, he expressed unequivocal sympathy with the Saigon puppets, whom he considered "staunch allies in the cause of freedom" (*sic*). Later he distinguished himself as a loyal partisan of Johnson's policy with regard to Viet Nam. With much candour, he declared on April 14, 1968: "I wouldn't want to exaggerate the importance of my contribution. I have been in on most of the discussions where high decisions were being given consideration. I feel I have played the role that a vice-president ought to play, one of an adviser, when asked, and also one of a loyal supporter when the decision is made."

Humphrey's bellicosity was confirmed in 1962 when he suggested that the Saigon puppets should carry the war to the North, "to give the enemy a taste of their own guerilla medicine."

As a presidential candidate, he has been simply playing again and again the records giving out "his master's voice," whether to explain the origins of the war or chart a course for the future. Like Johnson, he talks abundantly about peace, "a just and honourable peace," but also like Johnson, he refuses to agree to an unconditional cessation of the bombing against the D.R.V.N. as a start. While finding that the American demand for "reciprocity" on the part of the D.R.V.N. is a little too rigid, he has proposed that the terms "restraint and adequate response" be substituted for it, which once again justifies his nickname of "Johnson's carbon copy."

A DECEITFUL PROGRAM

AT the time of writing, the Democratic Party convention is not yet held. What has been presented to the examination of the American public is the Political Program of the Republican Party, which held a convention on August 5 and nominated Richard Nixon as a presidential candidate.

The G.O.P. has taken full advantage of its position as an opposition party and has not failed to subject Johnson's Democratic administration to a blistering attack. Concerning Viet Nam here is the indictment it has formulated:

"The Administration's Viet Nam policy has failed militarily, politically, diplomatically and with relation to our own people."

It has condemned the committing of an American expeditionary corps to Viet Nam in contravention of Johnson's 1964 promises, and has drawn a most bitter conclusion: "It is time to realize that not every international conflict is susceptible of solution by American ground forces."

But when it comes to the ways of curing the disease, the Republican Party offers nothing new compared with the present Johnson-Humphrey line. Its Political Program lays stress on the "de-Americanisation" of the war, "to enable and induce the South Vietnamese to assume increasing responsibilities." But haven't Johnson, Humphrey, and their man in Saigon, Abrams, been harping on the same string for some time already? They and their Republican critics are merely attempting to gloss over the puppet administration and army, the tools of American neo-colonialism, while seeking to calm American public anguish before growing American casualties.

The Republican Party has also insisted on the necessity of associating U.S. "allies" to American war efforts. This, too, is no novelty. What has put a brake on Johnson-Humphrey's efforts in this field has not been any reluctance of theirs to push countries like South Korea and Thailand to supply even more cannon fodder to the Americans, but the reticence shown by the governments of those countries under pressure from public opinion and the struggle put up by their own peoples.

The Republican Party has lastly talked about "peace negotiations." It says that there should be "neither peace at any price nor a camouflaged surrender of legitimate U.S. or allied interests, but a positive program that will offer a fair and equitable settlement to all, based on the principles of self-determination, our national interests, and the cause of long-range world peace." Fine words which badly conceal an intention to achieve peace from positions of strength, a peace where American neo-colonialism is maintained in South Viet Nam thanks to the presence of puppets kept in power in Saigon!

The candidate nominated at the Miami convention, Richard Nixon, has refused to elaborate on this peace program, for such a step, it seems, would "weaken his bargaining position if he became President of the United States." But everyone knows his theses as a die-hard hawk on problems awaiting all American negotiator at the conference table. For instance, it was he who, in the past, consistently opposed all pauses, however short, in the bombing of North Viet Nam. It was he who declared that the U.S.A. might resort to atomic weapons to bring Hanoi to its knees. It was also he who recommended an intensification and broadening of the war of aggression in South Viet Nam. The American press recalls that in 1954 Nixon suggested that U.S. troops be parachuted into Indochina to save the French colonialists from disaster; that in the present war against the Vietnamese people he has repeatedly demanded a "military victory" so as to defend the "vital strategic interests" of the United States, and that if for some time he has been speaking about "a negotiated settlement" this is meant merely to pretend a more flexible position with a view to the elections.

THE BASES FOR GENUINE PEACE

SINCE the Johnson line has done nothing but lead the U.S. to ever more bitter setbacks in Viet Nam, what could a Humphrey or a Nixon do who offers nothing new compared with Johnson?

A sound policy, one which conforms to the higher interests of the American nation, must be capable of bringing genuine peace to Viet Nam. There can be no solution to the Viet Nam problem if the following imperative requirements are not satisfied:

— unconditional cessation of the bombing and all other acts of war by the U.S. on the whole of D.R.V.N. territory;

— withdrawal from South Viet Nam of all U.S. and satellite troops;

— recognition of the N.F.L., authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people;

— Viet Nam to the Vietnamese: the affairs of Viet Nam must be settled by the Vietnamese people themselves without any foreign interference.

This is the essential content of the 4 points of the D.R.V.N. Government and the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L.

Any electoral program of the American parties which ignores the above-mentioned points will only be a manoeuvre aimed at deceiving the electors. It can only lead the United States to disaster.

PARIS TALKS' 18th SESSION

THE 18th session of the official conversations between the representative of the D.R.V.N. Government and the representative of the U.S. Government was held in Paris on August 21.

U.S. representative Averell Harriman had the floor first. Again, in face of sterner and sterner condemnation from the public in the United States and the world against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam, he had to justify it with rather lame arguments. Again, he rang the changes on "North Vietnamese aggression" and "the U.S. presence in Viet Nam to defend peace" at the "request" of the "Republic of Viet Nam." He also carried on his attempt to discredit the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and to put a better face on the Saigon puppet regime. As usual, Mr Harriman tried hard to explain away with tortuous contentions U.S. unwillingness to effect an unconditional cessation of the bombings and all other war acts on the whole D.R.V.N. territory.

With concrete evidence, Mr Xuan Thuy showed that the U.S. representative had blatantly garbled history and truth. The truth is that, he said, over five hundred thousand U.S. troops and thousands of U.S. aircraft and warships are conducting a war of aggression in South and North Viet Nam whereas no Vietnamese troops, aircraft and warships are carrying out aggression against the U.S.

He said that Harriman's speech at the 17th session and President Johnson's August 19 speech had made it quite clear that the U.S. administration still persisted in its aggressive policy and kept forcing its neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam and prolonging the partition of Viet Nam, while continuing the bombing of the D.R.V.N. All this has been the cause of the lack of progress of the Paris talks, Mr Xuan Thuy stressed.

The Vietnamese chief negotiator also recalled statements made recently by several American politicians and papers demanding that President Johnson stop completely the bombing of North Viet Nam and condemning the U.S. ruling circles' lack of seriousness and unrealistic attitude in insisting on their demand for "reciprocity" and a ransom for an end to the U.S. aggression.

The D.R.V.N. envoy produced irrefutable statistical evidence to prove that the U.S. government had stepped up its war in both parts of Viet Nam, thus perpetrating many more savage crimes against the Vietnamese people.

In North Viet Nam for instance, on July 14 last B.52 bombers dumped 700 tons of bombs on the southern part of Quang Binh province. Meanwhile, U.S. warships and U.S. ground artillery from south of the D.M.Z. have been continuously attacking heavily populated areas, hospitals, churches, dykes, etc.

In South Viet Nam as well, B.52s have rained thousands of tons of bombs on the very suburbs of Saigon, while the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique of puppets was ordered to make mass arrests and to murder many patriots, advocates of peace and neutrality, including opponents within the puppet administration and army. The recent murder of student Tran Quoc Chuong, whose only crime was his "peace tendency," has thrown a full light on the utterly fascist, ferocious nature of the aggressors and the traitors.

Minister Xuan Thuy refuted all the deceptive claims of the U.S. about its "restraint," "de-escalation" and about its intention not to attack the civil population, etc... In this connection, he recalled that late Senator Robert Kennedy had acknowledged the massacre of civilians by the U.S. in South Viet Nam.

He also energetically dismissed U.S. slanders against the N.F.L., and said in conclusion:

"So long as the U.S. pursues its aggression against South Viet Nam, the South Vietnamese people, under the leadership of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, will continue to fight against aggression. So long as U.S. troops continue to stay in Viet Nam, to terrorise and massacre civilians, the Vietnamese people will continue to fight them. It is impossible to demand that the Vietnamese people limit the exercise of their sacred right to self-defence, while the U.S. is not only continuing but intensifying its war of aggression. It is the American side that has been hindering the progress of the conversations here. It is the American side that blocks the path towards a correct political settlement of the Viet Nam problem. As I have many time stated, the American side must bear full responsibility for this."

A Village on the Firing Line

Editor's Note. — The provinces close to the 17th parallel, attacked without let-up by the U.S. air and naval forces, have been so with increasing intensity since U.S. President L.B. Johnson announced "limited bombing" of the D.R.V.N. Yet, for all the U.S. bombing and strafing, life follows its course in these provinces and by August 5, 1968, the Vinh Linh area, just north of the provincial military demarcation line, with a population of about 70,000, had brought down its 200th U.S. plane. To give the reader an idea about the conditions in which fighting and production are being conducted there, we present hereunder a study on a commune in this area.

STICKING TO THE VILLAGE

THE first question that arises is to hold on, to "stick to the village," to fight and to produce.

The local committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party organisation has resolved not to leave anything to accident as far as the safety of the people is concerned and the latter has provided the necessary effort to face the violence of enemy attacks. People constantly dig and repair shelters and communication trenches. They dismantle houses and fell trees to get timber needed for building them and keeping them in good repair. Each family has its own shelter and a "smokeless" kitchen undetectable by U.S. aircraft. Even pigs, poultry and cattle are provided with underground shelters. A maze of trenches connects houses with one another, the hamlets with the fields and links the hamlets together. In the fields, there are all kinds of shelters, fixed or movable. Either on the move or during their stay in the fields, the peasants never forget to camouflage themselves carefully and keep a given distance between one another so as to limit the losses in case of an enemy attack. The underground structure is arranged into offices for the leading organs of various co-ops and of the commune, surgical wards, dispensaries, maternity houses, creches, kindergartens, class-rooms, lecture halls, public halls where mass meetings, film shows, theatrical performances and other cultural and artistic activities are held.

These gigantic efforts have produced rewarding results. Apart from houses, gardens and crops, the loss of human lives and property has been reduced to the minimum. Hamlet H. for instance which covers an area a little more than a square kilometre and which received, in an 11-month period (Jan.—Nov. 1967), 17,000 tons of bombs has not suffered any fatal casualty.

FIGHTING AND SERVING THE REGULAR ARMED FORCES

LIKE the rest of the country and especially in areas particularly selected by the enemy, to protect human lives and production bases, as well as to ensure the conditions required for the smooth going of production, it is necessary to combat with courage, to shoot at diving aircraft or prowling warships before they have time to carry out their criminal bombing and strafing.

In defending his life and that of his own people, his house, his ricefields, the peasant of T. has plenty of pluck. On May 7, 1967, a unit of the people's militia of Commune T. waited until a flight of enemy planes had nose-dived for the 4th time and come within firing range to open fire. It killed a U.S. F.8 on July 27, 1967, after having been on the look-out for 3 hours. Three combatants, Le Kien, Le Thien and Duong Da, cut down a U.S. *Phantom* with 37 rounds of infantry arms fire.

It is the routine work of the people's militia and population of this commune to help the regular armed forces settle down or continue their movement. On one occasion, although harvesting was in full swing, the local command of the people's militia was able to assemble, in an instant, 170 militiamen for the transport of ammunition. Most typical of all was the action on November 10, 1966: within one night, the inhabitants of Commune T. did all the necessary jobs to help an A-A unit install itself or "lie in wait," according to the usual terminology. Next day, this unit worked wonder, made a brilliant contribution to the splendid exploit achieved on that day by the armed forces and people of Vinh Linh area: 6 U.S. planes were grounded in a single day.

Lastly, the population has set about with zeal transforming the hamlets and the commune into forts capable of resisting enemy ground attacks.

PRODUCING

HERE, production is as hard as the fighting. The best combatants are also the best producers.

Shock units are dispatched to areas which are targets selected by the enemy. People avoid the rush hours: if need be, work is done by night. Land reclamation is stepped up on hill sides to make up for the losses in cultivated areas caused by U.S. bombings. If it happens that the rice seedlings are destroyed, direct sowing or the growing of subsidiary food crops is the right thing to do. The hydraulic network, destroyed or damaged, is repaired with diligence to ensure the supply of water necessary for farm work. Thus, in spite of the fact that in 1967, the intensity of the bombing increased over 10 times, the crop areas reached 90% of those under cultivation the previous year.

The techniques of intensive cultivation, such as transplanting in straight rows, weeding, preparation of green manure, combat against insect pests, etc... have been carefully put into practice. Average rice yield in 1967 attained 4.3 tons per hectare per year (as against only 1.3 tons under the colonial and feudal regime).

Thanks to all these efforts, the average rice ration per worker could be increased by 80 kilos compared with the previous year. Also in 1967, each household was able to deliver to the State a surplus of from 0.5 to 0.7 ton of paddy. So, while fighting, the population of Commune T. has succeeded in putting into practice the slogan "To ensure food supplies for the population and the army so as to defeat the U.S. aggressor," "to ensure on-the-spot logistics."

LIFE GOES ON

ADULT complementary education classes function regularly at co-op and village echelon. There are 6 of the second degree.

Cultural and art activities continue normally. Each production brigade has its own art groups, and each co-op more important ensembles. The commune has organised a shock art troupe which performs where production and the fighting are particularly tough. The peasants at work, like the combatants between two enemy raids, always like to sing, joke and laugh. When evening comes, from various public halls, meeting sites or "cultural rooms" resounds the voice of a lecturer, a chorus, or the drone of a film projector.

Hygiene and prophylactic work is done with vigour. Lanes and communication trenches are well kept. New wells have been sunk and new bath-rooms built.

LIFE in Commune T. goes on. In the existence of its inhabitants, the striking feature is of course the fighting. All able-bodied persons take part in the fighting, the people's militia has grown in number and in quality. It absorbs hundreds of new combatants. Hundreds of them have been admitted to the Viet Nam Labour Youth Union and dozens of others to the glorious Viet Nam Workers' Party. Many of them — as numerous as asked by competent authorities — have joined the army. In large numbers, the women have assumed social charges including fighting jobs, and they have become outstanding combatants. Truong Thi Khue, a 20-year-old model woman farmer who has taken part in more than 100 combats, has been promoted deputy commander of the commune people's militia.

It is in this way that the inhabitants of Commune T. make themselves fully prepared to face all enemy attacks.

UP TO AUGUST 19, 1968

3,113 U.S. aircraft were downed

A District Hospital in the 4th Zone

THE district hospital of Dien Chau, province of Nghe An, on the 19th parallel, has changed sites four times in three years, all the 41 villages in the district having been raided by American aircraft.

To adapt themselves to the war conditions, the staff of the hospital has laid down the principle "Be light and neat" and "Proficiency in surgery and other specialties." Physicians and nurses must know how to discharge many functions and, in the first place, to handle the scalpel.

The hospital which possessed 80 beds has now no more than 50. The remainder is scattered in six different surgical operating stations throughout the district which service each many villages. Doing the duty of a district hospital, these stations deal with cases usually handled by a station of the "third line" of the medico-sanitary network. They carry out surgical operations of medium importance, handle intricate cases and, if necessary, help rural medico-sanitary stations fulfil their "second line" role that is: sorting of the wounded, reanimation, treating of soft tissue wounds.

The district hospital has three mobile medical teams to visit villages and assist the medico-sanitary network in these villages and in agricultural cooperatives. It is by consolidating village network that the wounded can be given timely attention.

At present, of the 41 villages in the district, 31 have got such medico-sanitary stations. Under the supervision of an assistant doctor, each station has an operating room and fulfils its "second line" role with proficiency; it boasts a laboratory, a chest of traditional medicines, a garden grown with medicinal plants. Trenches and safe shelters have been dug to treat wounds even in the midst of a bombing. In this regard it is worth mentioning the case of a rural medical station which managed to give care to 39 people wounded in a day in an American air raid.

Underground operating room in a village near the 17th parallel.

The medico-sanitary network in villages and agricultural co-operatives plays the "first line" role (first aid to the wounded, hemostasis, immobilization of the wounds, management of syncope) and the "second line" role. Such an improvement lightens the task of the district hospital which can devote itself to raising the standard of its personnel, conducting researches in order to serve production and the fighting, and handling new specialties such as O.R.L., O.M.F., pediatrics, gynecology, X. Ray. Surgeons of the hospital can undertake quite complicated operations such as surgico-obstetric urgencies, suture of the intestines, the spleen and liver, operation of the cataract, glaucoma. When air raids are fierce and the number of wounded swells, the hospital can operate three cases at a time.

To be more effective, the hospital also organises para-clinical service: as a biochemical laboratory, it conducts quantitative analysis and produces anti-coagulation solution, serums, test serums. In 1967, three studies were successfully completed: use of a local plant to do away with the effects of snake venom and poisonous mushrooms, use of another medicinal plant having the same efficacity as anti-biotics in the dressing of soft tissue wounds and use of strong dose serum in treatment.

The result of this steady progress is that in 1967 the mortality rate of people seriously wounded by air raids dropped to only one-third of 1966.

Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces' Second Confab Passes Important Political Programme

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"Under the impact of the sweeping attacks of the revolutionary forces, the U.S. and puppet troops have fallen back upon the defensive in the urban centres where they continue to be harassed, even in Saigon where they have mustered their forces to build a heavy defence. The initiative is indisputably in the hands of the revolution.

"Politically, the U.S. and the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration are facing utter isolation at home as well as in the world. The prestige of the U.S. has suffered a great blow and the power of its quislings has been on the wane. Our people's hatred for them is growing and popular sympathy with the revolutionary forces is more and more marked. Even a portion of the personnel of the puppet administration and the puppet army have come to gradually realize the aggressive and traitorous nature of the U.S. and its lackeys and joined the patriotic movement. The anti-U.S. national salvation front is gaining in scope and strength.

"The struggle in cities and towns which takes on both legal and illegal forms is sweepingly powerful, especially in Saigon-Cholon - Gia Dinh and Hue, in spite of the rabid reaction of the U.S. and the puppet administration in their death-bed squirming. The youth, students, pupils and intellectuals and other personalities, together with the workers and other labouring people, have upholded the banner of indomitable struggle for vital interests, democratic liberties and peace, for an end to the U.S. aggressive war, for negotiations with the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and for a broad national, democratic coalition government, etc... And with an irresistible mettle the people have joined in the rounding up of blood guilty agents of the enemy and warmly supported the revolutionary armed forces.

"In face of the big victories of the revolutionary forces, the morale of the puppet army has sunk to a critical low and its confidence in the U.S. forces has vanished. Even the bellicose ringleaders in the White House and the Pentagon are no longer sure of the success of their dark designs and of their ability to achieve a military decision in their favour. Some of them even think the U.S. may lose the war. The tendency towards negotiations and ending the war in South Viet Nam is gaining ground in the U.S. political circles.

"The U.S. is making desperate efforts to bolster up the puppet administration and army, dolling them up and wire-pulling them into making demagogic moves. But facing collapse, the latter cannot but drop their mask to bare their true colours as vicious traitors who cannot deceive anybody.

"Besides, the more setbacks the U.S. and its lackeys suffer, the more their ranks are torn by inner conflicts and the greater the chance that the U.S., with its tendency towards negotiations and its 'the fish caught, the net is laid aside' policy, will change horses in midstream. The dismissal of Nguyen Van Loc, Nguyen Cao Ky's henchman, showed that the U.S., when necessary, did not stop at any barbarity to get rid of those lackeys who have outlived their usefulness and replace them by new puppets.

"Upon the strength of this appraisal, the Conference affirmed that the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the Saigon puppet administration would not be able to escape their destruction, no matter what perfidious tricks and brutal moves they may resort to."

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The communique went on:

"The Conference noted with elation that the Alliance, which took shape in the process of the struggle of the people in urban centres and other enemy-controlled areas and came into being at a time when the South Viet Nam revolution had entered a new period, had constantly been enhancing its prestige and political influence.

"The Alliance's National Salvation Manifesto and program of action has had wide repercussions at home and abroad. They have exerted a deep influence on the urban population of various strata in South Viet Nam, especially the intelligentsia and bourgeoisie, including high-ranking officials and officers in the puppet administration and army, and political and religious forces in the enemy-controlled areas. They have opened up new prospects for further expanding the united front against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, aggravating the divergences within the ranks of the enemy and thwarting all their sinister manoeuvres.

"The V.N.A.N.D.C.F. has proved its great vitality in its activities and development. This has frightened the enemy who have been trying to black out and misrepresent the activities of the Alliance and repress the movement, with such vile means as the farcial trial of ten members of the Alliance's Central Committee, and the creation of ghost-'fronts' to intimidate and hoodwink the population.

"But they cannot check the vigorous development of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces which has proved itself more and more clearly to be a broad front rallying genuine patriots of different political tendencies and religious creeds. The Alliance branches in Hue, Saigon - Cholon - Gia Dinh and in many other towns and cities have been co-operating with the Central Committee in mobilizing people and broadening their organisations and have been waging a vigorous struggle against the U.S. aggressors and their puppets.

"A number of its members who unfortunately fell into the hands of the enemy have shown a staunch and indomitable spirit, such as Tran Ngoc Anh, a student of the Shipping School, and 5 of his comrades-in-arms, men and women, who at the news conference staged by the enemy for propaganda purposes, highly praises their patriotic organization and bitterly denounced the U.S. as the aggressor."

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The communique then announced:

"The Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces have elaborated a Political Programme in which have been laid down concrete policies and undertakings in the 'national salvation and 'national reconstruction' line, which will serve as a basis for rallying the patriotic forces eager to seek a way out for the present situation in South Viet Nam and a directive for the building of an independent, free, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam and making it possible to gradually achieve the peaceful reunification of the country.

"The Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces once again reiterates its pledge to unite all patriotic people to overthrow the puppet and lackey regime, set up a national coalition government, and achieve independence, democracy and peace."

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The communique also gave the names of other delegates who took the floor at the Conference:

— Mme Van Trang, writer, representing the women, former Assistant Secretary General of the Saigon Association for the Defence of Women's Rights and Dignity;

— Engineer Truong Nhu Tang, representing the intellectuals, and Ex-Director of the Viet Nam Sugar Company (in occupied area);

— Mr Thien Giang, representing teachers, Advisor to the Viet Nam Teachers' Association, and member of the Presidium of the Forces Defending National Culture (in occupied area);

— Mr. Ha Ngoc Thanh, representing patriotic civil servants, former Head of the Personnel and Salary Board of the puppet President's Office;

— Mr. Nguyen Van Buu, representing patriotic armymen in the Saigon puppet army, President of the "Patriotic War Veterans' Association";

— Engineer Nguyen Huu Khuong, representing industrialists, traders and proprietors, President of the Viet Nam Paint Trade Union, member of the Executive Committee for the Building of an Independent Economy and member of the Liaison Committee for Various Social Strata (in occupied area).

— Engineer Cao Van Bon, member of the Diem regime, 1965 Coup d'Etat group led by Colonel Pham Ngoc Thao (puppet army);

— Poet Tran Quang Long, representative of writers and artists (in occupied area); and

— Le Quang Loc, representing youth and students, and President of the Saigon Faculty of Letters Students' Association.

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The communique voiced the gratification of the Alliance at the firm support full of affection given it by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation — "the staunch and ever-victorious army organized and made a great contribution to the resistance against the U.S. aggression, for national salvation."

The communique said that in unison with the Presidium of the N.F.L. Central Committee, various organizations affiliated to the Front and many other patriotic organizations have sent letters and messages to the Alliance greeting its founding, voicing their support to it and expressing their readiness to join actions with it.

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The communique went on to say:

"The Central Committee of the Alliance has also received warm greetings from personalities, intellectuals, political parties, mass and religious organizations and patriotic people's forces from South Viet Nam urban centres now engaged in heroic fighting as well as from North Viet Nam and from foreign countries.

"In his July 20, 1968 Appeal, President Ho Chi Minh has hailed the birth of the Alliance. In very inspiring words, the history-making leader has given the Alliance a place in the nation's glorious history of liberation.

"Premier Pham Van Dong in his report to the D.R.V.N. National Assembly and the D.R.V.N. National Assembly itself in its fourth session, have both voiced strong support to the Alliance and highlighted its role.

"The Viet Nam Fatherland Front, the Viet Nam Democratic Party, the Viet Nam Socialist Party, many enterprises, construction sites, State farms, agricultural co-operatives, many press organs and many personalities and intellectuals in North Viet Nam have welcomed the emergence of the Alliance, and reaffirmed their support to the Alliance's position as expounded in its National Salvation Manifesto, and its program of action.

"From the capitals of various countries in the world, greetings to the Alliance and appreciation of its contribution to the resistance against U.S. aggression and for national salvation, have been expressed by the press, the radio and T.V., or have been addressed to the Alliance Central Committee."

The communique also recalled the tokens of solidarity shown it by various organisations in both zones of Viet Nam and the world on the occasion of the "trial" of ten members of the Alliance's Central Committee by the U.S. and Thieu-Ky-Huong clique.

To all its well-wishers and supporters, the Alliance conveyed its sincere thanks. It sent to all the fellow-countrymen at home and abroad and the world's peoples' its greetings of solidarity and determination to fight and to defeat the U.S. imperialists and for freedom, democracy, national sovereignty, peace, and prosperity.

See our next issue:
Political Programme of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces.

LATEST NEWS

— At least 50 enemy positions from Saigon to Quang Tri (including Hue, Da Nang, Hoi An, Quang Ngai, Pleiku, Kontum) were attacked by P.L.A.F. artillery and infantry on the night of August 22.

In violent street fighting in Da Nang, U.S. tanks were destroyed in the main thoroughfare.

— From August 21 to 23, on the Tay Ninh front, 11 U.S. companies wiped out, 236 military vehicles destroyed.

(See details in our next issue)

ON THE DAY AFTER THE SOFIA 9th FESTIVAL

Our Magnificent Youth

Professor PHAM HUY THONG
President of the National Federation of Vietnamese Youth, Member of the World Peace Council

I am not a chauvinistic man. So I believe at least.

But perhaps the time allows me to exalt my country's youth without arousing too much suspicion and doubt about the legitimacy of my feelings?

Those repeated assaults on American bases and urban centres in South Viet Nam, those exploits which have shaken America and, harbingers of a new world, arrested the attention of the peoples, are the doings of our youth. Which of these, I wonder, should be stressed first and foremost: their boldness, abnegation, intelligence, or revolutionary faith?

No less worthy of praise are the school and college students of Saigon and Hue, the fiery youth of occupied cities. In face of enemy soldiers known to be pitiless, they have shouted their solidarity with their comrades fighting arms in hand. Many are those who have given concrete proofs of their convictions, even if they risk imprisonment or defenestration from the top floor of a building.

And what should I say about the youth of the North? They are concerned about the martyrdom of their Southern brothers and sisters, about the struggle waged in the South for national independence and the right to live as free men, as if they were being robbed of those supreme possessions. Have you ever heard them, if only once, sing, eager and yet relaxed, along roads and dykes, near bridges and ferry landings, filling up bomb craters or enjoying a break in between spells of military training? They know that victory belongs to their people, but at the same time they know that it won't fall from the sky, that it is up to them to get it, and for this they must produce as much as fight, and study, and win the battle of communications.

No, one can't say that our youth, in both North and South, are having an easy time. Yet, the same optimism fires them all. All share the same view of the fight they are waging and the same faith in victory. "Viet Nam to the Vietnamese!" Uncle Ho has thus summarized what may be called their war aims. He has told them and told the whole world what they all think, and the revolutionary fervour he has roused in them since August 1945 is such that in their ominous opinion, the struggle for the conquest of such ideals, or more exactly for the safeguarding of such values, is worth every sacrifice.

Heroic Viet Nam. That the peoples should have taken these last few years to attaching such an epithet to the name of our country is due without any doubt to our Party and our youth.

So, it seems to me that in view of those merits of our youth I may have some right to speak proudly of them without being suspected of chauvinism. Have I myself of this occasion to say that I take a personal pride in enjoying their confidence at the time? And who doesn't find blindingly clear the light of its data? As for us Vietnamese, we are deeply conscious of the meaning of our struggle. We know that on the outcome of our resistance to American aggression, depend not only our national sovereignty and right to live under a regime of our choice, but the very principle of the peoples' independence and freedom. In defending ourselves, we defend at the same time an outpost of socialism. Better than in any other fight being waged in our revolutionary period, are embodied in ours the present great ideals of progressive mankind, those great watchwords which have appealed to the generosity and enthusiasm of the young generation: peace, independence, democracy, social progress. With it, the charm of daring, moral fortitude, of self-improvement, of military valour. And in face of all that, no just cause and the sympathy shown it by the peoples, stands the common enemy of all peoples: aggressive American imperialism.

In those conditions, the choice one way or the other cannot be regarded as without importance. Indeed the youth as a whole have made such a choice, and the best among them are struggling for his option. Could one forget that many young people, notably from the socialist camp, have offered to come and fight on our side?

Starting from our own experience and considering the various positions taken concerning our struggle as a touchstone, we reach the same conclusion as Igor Kohn, for whom, after all, "it is the growing political militantism of the youth which characterizes our time." We share his view that it is the young Communists who are in the van. Everywhere, healthy political forces, the vanguard of which is made up by Communist and Workers' parties, strive to lead the youth towards the "singing morrows" by pointing to them the example set by our youth. Lastly, we are pleased with the broad development in the modern world of the youth's democratic movement and the considerable role played in it by the students, and we rejoice in seeing, at the last international meeting of the youth in Sofia, young people from 142 countries emphatically declare their active solidarity with the youth of fighing Viet Nam.

Particularly instructive to me is the attitude of the American youth, with their volte-faces, their élans, their anguish, the interest their social problems, real or artificial, which assail them. Everyone knows that in the United States, the young, those of universities and high schools in the first place, constitute one of the main forces which, for the last few years, have been opposing the Pentagon's plans, the "dirty war." A Marx or a few American educators, writers, militants who have spoken to me with satisfaction, and indeed not without some bitterness, of the moral upsurge which has been taking shape among the young generation of America under favour of the social and political struggles born of imperialist ventures in Viet Nam.

Many of those young people have certainly come a long way before joining the struggle. Imagine the agonizing revisions through which must have gone people who had convinced themselves that it would be enough to preach concord or set examples of fraternal human relations for happiness to descend upon earth, before they came into contact with social, political and other realities, and realized the necessity of a minimal discipline and political vigilance, the complexities of ideological, organisational work, and what not? It must have been not easy to come to break away from deep-rooted ways of thinking, or worse still, to rouse themselves up from seemingly incurable apathy. For this they are all the more commendable. Because at this too, all hopes are possible...

May I not conclude, therefore, these few reflections on the youth of our time by saying that the joint efforts of the young will contribute to imposing an end to the war in Viet Nam, whatever may be its promoters' obstinacy and designs, and that this victory is the harbinger of more to come? And am I not entitled if I may venture a judgment on those youth, to think that they are truly magnificent?

Armies of the Soviet Union and Some Other Socialist Countries Enter Czechoslovakia

SINCE January this year, the counter-revolutionary forces in Czechoslovakia have stepped up their activities against socialism, seriously jeopardizing the revolutionary gains of that country and endangering the regime and state structure of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, a member of the socialist camp.

The meeting of the Party and State leaders of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, and Hungary, held recently in Bratislava, has issued a joint statement affirming the solidarity and unity of mind of the allied socialist countries in Europe and voicing firm opposition to the schemes and activities of sabotage by imperialism and to the hostile activities of counter-revolutionary elements who are opposing socialism and scheming to destroy the Czechoslovak socialist regime and State.

Recently, those counter-revolutionary forces opposed to socialism in Czechoslovakia have carried on and even increased their hostile activities. This has compelled the stalwart members of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and statesmen of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to request the armed forces of the Soviet Union and other allied countries to help defend the Czechoslovak socialist regime and State.

To this noble end, on the morning of August 21, 1968 the fighters of the armed forces of the Soviet Union and other allied countries — Bulgaria, Hungary, the G.D.R. and Poland — entered Czechoslovakia's territory.

On August 21, the Soviet *Tass* News Agency issued a statement which read:

"The increasing deterioration of the situation in Czechoslovakia has affected the vital interests of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries and the security of nations in the socialist community. The threat to the socialist regime in Czechoslovakia is also the threat to the foundation of peace in Europe.

"Starting from the principles of everlasting friendship and co-operation and abiding by commitments resulting from agreements already signed, the Soviet Government and the Governments of allied countries: the Bulgarian People's Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic and the Polish People's Republic, have decided to meet the request of Communist Party members and statesmen of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and to afford the necessary assistance to the brother Czechoslovak people.

"This decision is entirely consistent with the rights of nations to individual and collective defence provided for in the alliance agreements signed between brother socialist countries. This decision also falls in line with the vital interests of our nations in the defence of the peace in Europe against aggressive revanchist militarist forces who have many times dragged European countries into wars.

"Army units of the Soviet Union and of the above mentioned allied countries entered Czechoslovak territory on

(Continued page 6)

VIET NAM AND THE WORLD AT LARGE

News from CAMBODIA

Cambodia Refutes New U.S. Slander

THE Royal Government of Cambodia on August 12 released a statement flatly refuting the new slanders by American papers against the Kingdom of Cambodia, reports from Phnom Penh said.

The statement referred to reports published in *The Washington Post* and *The New York Post* on July 29 according to which the American authorities in South Viet Nam said North Vietnamese aircraft had been using airfields in Cambodia.

It categorically dismissed the calumnious allegation and remarked that everyone knows that the Cambodian territory has been under constant surveillance by the American air force which has cynically violated Cambodian airspace.

It drew public attention to the systematic character of the charges which were said to come from "authorized sources" and to be substantiated by proofs. It cited in this connection another report by the paper *The Australian* which on July 23 last claimed that the U.S. had discovered eleven major Vietnamese bases inside the territory of Cambodia.

"It becomes apparent," the statement stressed, "that this stepped up propaganda drive has only one object, that of preparing public opinion psychologically for a military action against Cambodia."

In conclusion, the statement reiterated the solemn warning by Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk against the grave consequences of an eventual attack on Cambodia by U.S. forces.

News from LAOS

Communiqué of Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee's Enlarged Session

THE Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front has issued a communiqué on its enlarged session held from August 5 to 9 in the free zone of Laos to assess the current situation and lay down the immediate tasks of the Lao Revolution, *Pathet Lao* News Agency *K.P.L.* reported.

The communiqué said:

"Since mid-1967 the U.S. imperialists have been frantically intensifying their 'special war' in Laos in every respect in implementation of their strategic scheme — to undermine and nibble at the liberated zone, pacify the areas temporarily controlled by them, and turn the tide on the Lao battlefields after their bitter defeats in South Viet Nam. However, they have suffered heavier setbacks.

"In response to the appeal of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee and impelled forward by their victories in the 1966-1967 dry season and the 1967 moonson, the Lao armed forces and people, in the 1967-1968 dry season, resolutely fought off the enemy's nibbling attacks against the liberated areas, wiped out U.S.-fostered bandits, resisted the U.S. air war and successfully fought off the enemy psy-war and raids.

"Within 7 months only (from September last year to May this year), our armed forces and people put out of action 16,8 enemy, destroyed a large quantity of the enemy's war means, blasted to pieces more than 100 U.S. war planes, liberated a large part of the population, and recovered many areas.

"People in the free zone are boosting up production, enthusiastically serving the front or joining the patriotic armed forces. Economic, cultural and public health activities in the free zone are making headway.

"These successes have had a deep impact on the people in enemy-controlled areas. The latter have realized more clearly the aggressive nature of the U.S. imperialists and the treacherous character of the Lao puppets and of Prince Souvanna Phouma who have been at the beck and call of the U.S. imperialists and are working hand in glove with the latter in defaming the Lao Patriotic Front and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and carrying out the U.S. scheme of war intensification and expansion in Laos. However, the falsehoods of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen can in no way fool the people. It is obvious that the farther Prince Souvanna Phouma and the Vientiane clique travel on the anti-national and anti-popular road, the further they will expose themselves as tools of the U.S. imperialists, and reveal their rottenness."

After pointing out that the U.S. imperialists were still obstinately pursuing their dark schemes in Laos, the communiqué said:

"The Lao people are resolved to foil all aggressive schemes of the U.S. and all anti-national manoeuvres of the Vientiane puppet clique. We cherish peace, but peace must go together with independence and democracy.

"Our position on the settlement of the Lao issue is very clear. As the U.S. is the aggressor, it must withdraw all its advisors and military personnel, all its weapons and war means from Laos. The U.S. must stop its aggression against Laos, and first and foremost, stop the bombing raids and ground attacks on the liberated areas controlled by the Lao patriotic forces. The internal affairs of Laos must be settled by the Lao people themselves in conformity with the fundamentals of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos and with the prevailing situation in Laos."

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH AFRO-AMERICANS' STRUGGLE OBSERVED IN THE D.R.V.N.

IMPLEMENTING the resolution of the First Conference of the Organization of Solidarity of Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America on the "International Day of Solidarity with Afro-Americans," the Viet Nam Committee of Solidarity with Afro-Asian Peoples and the Viet Nam Committee of Solidarity with the American People held a meeting in Hanoi on August 18.

The gathering approved a resolution strongly condemning racial segregation in the U.S. and resolutely demanding that the U.S. reactionary authorities put an end to their repression against Black people.

On this occasion, the daily *Nhan Dan*, central organ of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, carried an article headlined "The Vietnamese People Warmly Hail the Struggle of Black People in the U.S." By Mrs Nguyen Thi Luu, Secretary General of the Viet Nam Committee of Solidarity with Afro-Asian Peoples, who wrote:

"Most Black people in the U.S. fully realize that the U.S. imperialists who have caused them a lot of sufferings are also those who have been heaping up for years heinous crimes against the Vietnamese people in their war of aggression in Viet Nam. This war has sent tens of thousands of black youths to a useless death for American capitalists' interests. That is why Black people in the U.S. have closely linked their struggle against racism and for freedom and equality, with the movement of protest against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam.

"...The Vietnamese people who fight the U.S. imperialist aggressors, the most abhorred enemy of mankind, express their profound sympathy with the Black people in the U.S. They warmly welcome and wholeheartedly support their heroic and persevering struggle for freedom and quality."

Armies of the Soviet Union...

(*Continued from page 5*)

August 21. They will withdraw from Czechoslovakia as soon as the threat to socialist achievements in that country and to the security of countries of the socialist community is eliminated and when the legal authorities deem their presence in Czechoslovakia no longer necessary.

"The actions thus taken are not aimed at any country nor are they detrimental to the interest of any state. They serve the aim of peace and spring from the aspiration to consolidate peace."

"The fraternal Parties are resolved to oppose their everlasting solidarity to any threat from outside. Nobody is allowed to break a link in the chain of the socialist community."

On August 21 and 22, the Central Committee of the Unified Socialist Party of Germany, the State Council and the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic; the Government of the Polish Republic; the News Agencies of Hungary and Bulgaria also issued statements unanimously pointing to the fact that the armies of the Soviet Union, the G.D.R., Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria had entered Czechoslovakia at the request of the Czechoslovak Party and State activists, on the basis of the principles of friendship and close co-operation and in accordance with the responsibility of each country as ally to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. These statements also stressed that the army units of the Soviet Union and allied countries will withdraw immediately from Czechoslovakia when the threat to the socialist achievements in that country and to the security of the countries in the socialist community is eliminated and when the legal authorities of Czechoslovakia deems their presence in Czechoslovakia no longer necessary.

Educational Achievements in Sam Neua Liberated Zone

BESIDES their military exploits and successes in production, the people in the liberated zone of Sam Neua province have scored good achievements in education.

By the end of the 1967-68 school-year the province had a total of 420 primary and elementary schools with an enrolment of 11,620 — twice as many as in 1965-66 — and an increase of 23 per cent as compared with 1966-67. This represents 28 per cent of the school enrolment in the whole free zone of Laos.

There are now twice as many elementary schools in the liberated zone of Sam Neua as in the whole country under French rule. A special boarding school for minority peoples has been opened.

95 per cent of the province's population were illiterate in the colonial days, most of them women. Now girls make up about 22 per cent of the pupils.

Primary and elementary school graduates of the last school-year went up respectively 85 and 100 per cent as compared with the previous school-year.

The teaching staff now numbers 540 — twice the figure of 1965-66, and 33 per cent higher than that of 1966-67.

The number of adult literacy classes has also risen rapidly. By June 1968, 15,500 people — more than half are women — had been freed from illiteracy. The number of literate hamlets increases fourfold as compared with 1967.

THE U.S. AGGRESSORS CANNOT DENY THEIR CRIMES IN SOUTH VIET NAM

CHANH LUU is a prosperous village 40km north of Saigon. It looks like thousands of other villages in South Viet Nam, especially in the fertile delta of Nam Bo. Owing to its proximity to Saigon, it has been raided every two or three weeks by U.S. troops.

On August 11, 1968, Peter Arnett described one of those raids as follows: "The people of Chanh Luu village squatted on their heels in the market place, watching impassively.

"The thud of fist on flesh in a rear room of one stucco house indicated that a battlefield interrogation was in progress. An armed guard pushed an old man, his hair matted with mud into the main village square, his daughter followed tied to a rope behind him. Crowds of bound men and women crouched in an open storehouse. Some were muddied. A few looked clean, wet and pale. They had been through the water treatment, a favorite form of interrogation in Viet Nam."

Arnett went on to write: "It's sanitized until we have it clear. As the U.S. is the aggressor, it must withdraw all its advisors and military personnel, all its weapons and war means from Laos. The U.S. must stop its aggression against Laos, and first and foremost, stop the bombing raids and ground attacks on the liberated areas controlled by the Lao patriotic forces. The internal affairs of Laos must be settled by the Lao people themselves in conformity with the fundamentals of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos and with the prevailing situation in Laos."

were sent to a bridge and shot dead and their bodies thrown into the water. The third one was hanged with a nylon rope and another marine kicked away the chair on which the victim was standing. Allen cut the man's throat to finish him off.

That's the kind of "civilization" the G.I.s have brought to South Viet Nam.

OF late, *Giai Phong* Press Agency has reported the accusations of Vietnamese civilians against the G.I.s who had besieged Cam Khe market (Quang Nam province), arrested people and thrown them from helicopters into the sea on July 27. Of these 13 people, 8 have survived.

Mr Cao Dam, 50, one of the surviving victims, said, "We were put in the sun in the yard of Tuan Duong post. Many of us were beaten black and blue. One of the Yankees accompanied by a quisling asked us questions about the P.L.A.F. As we replied we knew nothing, being people having our own business to attend, we were exposed from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m, when the puppet troops rushed in and tied us up. Mr. Nguyen So, 43, from Hoa Vang and Mr. Huynh Ngac, 33, from Duy Xuyen, living in Ky An village, Tam Ky district, Quang Nam province, were put in a jute bag and flung into a chopper (they died later on - *Ed.*). Blindfolded, we heard a puppet soldier say: "Today, you will be joining the majority."

Miss Luong Thi Thu, another survivor said, "We were chained in twos and thrown into the sea. We sank and were sure of drowning ourselves. I made a desperate attempt to come up to the surface of the water and luckily a wave washed me to the shore where I was collected and nursed by the local people."

That's the "protection" given South Viet Nam by the Yankees.

AP reported on August 9, 1968, the case of an American N.C.O., Denzil R. Allen, who had killed 5 Vietnamese civilians within 24 hours. The first two victims who had identity cards on them seemed still suspect to Allen and put through the third degree. After the examination they were given two M.16 gun shots each. The other three victims were also arrested and interrogated. Two of them was sentenced in absentia to ten years' hard labour. Previously the magazine *Sinh Vien* (Student) had been closed down and its editor-in-chief, Nguyen Truong Con, a student, was sentenced to 5 years' hard labour.

On August 3, Saigon police besieged the seat of the Students' General Association, preventing pressmen from attending a press conference for fear that the student should reveal the crimes of the authorities.

On August 4, the Law Students' Association in Saigon denounced the July 27 arrest of students Trinh Dinh Ban by the Saigon authorities, and demanded his release.

On August 9, Duong Van Day and Dao Thi Nguyet Thanh, respectively president and secretary of the Saigon Students' Committee of Assitance to War Victims, were arrested by the quislings.

At the townlet of Cam Ranh, on July 26, American troops broke into the houses of the local inhabitants and looted their valuables.

On August 1, the weekly *Song* (Life) was closed down for having partly let out the truth on the Cam Ranh affair.

On August 3, the paper *Thoi Dai Moi* (New Times) was served a warning on the same ground.

Such are U.S. imported "democratic liberties" in South Viet Nam cities and towns.

Can the American aggressors deny their crimes in the South?

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

ON July 20, 1968, in Saigon, Tran Quoc Chung, a student of the Medical College, was tied up and thrown from the third floor of the college building onto the ground because he was for "peace." He died from a fracture of the skull.

On August 2, Nguyen Dang Trung, chairman of the Saigon Students' Association, and 2 in the coastal provinces Northeast of Saigon were also plastered on the night of August 21 to August 22. So were the **Nha Bo** oil storage complex, 10 km from the Southeastern suburbs of Saigon, and the base of Thai mercenaries 25 km East of this city.

A few days ago, on August 14, several enemy positions between 60 and 80 km East-Northeast of Saigon were raided, including the **Gia Ray** military training camp, the base of the U.S. 11th Armoured Regiment at **Suoi Ram**, the U.S. Field Command at **Xuan Loc**, the H.Q. and C.P.'s of the puppet 18th Division and 2 regiments, etc... As a result, 600 adverse troops were wiped out, and 16 aircraft and helicopters and 12 armoured vehicles destroyed or damaged.

In the 3 days ending August 13, near **Tan An** city (30 km Southwest of Saigon), the guerillas and regional troops of the P.L.A.F. foiled a U.S. "mopping-up" operation, putting out of action 430 G.I.'s including the Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the operation and all his staff.

The Americans also sustained a new disastrous defeat during fighting from August 14 to August 16 in Ben Tre province, at the mouth of the Mekong river. The counter-offensive conducted by a brigade of the U.S. 9th Infantry and supported by the puppet 7th Division cost the enemy 710 men including 570 G.I.'s killed, wounded or captured and 25 vessels sunk or set ablaze. Ben Tre has thus become the biggest graveyard for the enemy Riverine Forces which have lost there 199 vessels since the beginning of this year.

Between Saigon and the sea, the P.L.A.F. gunners damaged two cargo ships, one with an 8,000-ton displacement and the other with a 10,000-ton displacement, on August 10, and 4 other cargos and tankers on August 21.

OTHER ENEMY SETBACKS IN THE NORTHERN SECTOR

IN the **Highway No 9** and **Con Tien** sector, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported several onslaughts launched by the P.L.A.F. against elements of the U.S. 3rd Marine Division between August 15 and August 20 which resulted in more than 8,000 enemy soldiers killed or wounded, 12 tanks and armoured cars destroyed and 7 planes and helicopters brought down. Storage depots at Cua Viet port shelled on August 16 and August 18 were reduced to ashes.

At 16 km Southwest of Quang Tri, the **Tan Dien** position held by 2 companies of the U.S. First Air Cavalry Division was completely destroyed on August 16: 310 G.I.'s were put out of action, 31 armoured cars and trucks and 3 warehouses destroyed and all weapons seized by the P.L.A.F.

At 9 km Northeast of Quang Tri, the First Air Cavalry on August 20 attempted a landing by helicopters which met with a withering fire from the patriots. At least 9 craft were grounded before the cavalrymen could make their landing, Western news agencies reported.

In the Hue sector, the operation launched by the enemy command in the **A So** area since August 4 ended in a flop on August 19. The heliborne troops once again had to pull out of this valley, becoming "damned" for the aggressors, after having suffered in two weeks nearly 900 men killed or wounded (including 500 G.I.'s) and 22 choppers shot down.

FURTHER PROOF...

(*Continued from page 8*)

THE glorious Tay Ninh success of the P.L.A.F. is no surprise for him who remembers that that province was one of the first resistance bases of the Vietnamese people against French colonization over one century ago. In the 1945-1954 national patriotic war, it was one of the strongest guerilla bases. Now in the resistance to U.S. aggression, it was the site of the first important military victory in 1962 and it was on the territory of that province that the P.L.A.F. inflicted a severe setback on the U.S. aggressors in Operation *Junction City* in February 1967 which sealed the doom of the second dry-season counter-offensive of the enemy.

But in South Viet Nam, Tay Ninh province is not the only one with such a great tradition of heroism. The series of bitter reverses suffered by the enemy since the third week of August in many localities in South Viet Nam relevantly supply convincing proofs.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

(*Continued from page 8*)

Military Operations

CRUSHING BLOWS OF P.L.A.F. IN TAY NINH PROVINCE

THE P.L.A.F. suddenly switched over to the offensive on the night of August 17 to August 18 in most of Tay Ninh province, Northwest of Saigon and bordering on Cambodian territory, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported.

While in the neighbouring province P.L.A.F. units were in control of the H.Q. of a military sub-sector and inflicted heavy losses on a U.S. Special Forces camp at Loc Ninh (120km North of Saigon), other formations pressed the attack against a dozen or more enemy positions in Tay Ninh city (85km Northwest of Saigon), the U.S. position at Tra Phi, the radio relay station at Mount Ba Den, respectively 7 and 10km Northeast of this city, two other base camps of the U.S. 25th Infantry barely 3km from Tay Ninh, an airfield 8km West of this city and finally a U.S. Special Forces camp at Ca Tum (40km North - Northeast of Tay Ninh).

At **Tra Phi**, within 5 minutes, the patriotic forces put out of action a mixed battalion of the U.S. 25th Infantry, wiping out its C.P. as well as an armoured company and 2 infantry companies. They killed or wounded 400 G.I.'s and destroyed 34 tanks and A.P.C.'s and 6 heavy guns.

The **Ba Den** radio relay station, with sophisticated electronic equipment, tracks movements of aircraft over Nam Bo and large parts of Cambodia and guides U.S. aircraft towards selected targets. Devastated the first time on May 13 last by a P.L.A.F. ground attack, it received this time an intensive pounding which killed or wounded 90 G.I.'s and technicians and damaged beyond repair a large quantity of sophisticated equipment.

The **Ca Tum** position was taken by ground troops after a violent barrage of artillery fire: 2 Ranger companies were destroyed.

The P.L.A.F. swept off the enemy in the major part of the city and were in control for several days. The local people rose up and hunted down local tyrants and thugs.

On Aug. 19, the P.L.A.F. attacks were pushed up and spread over almost all districts of the province. The **Qui Thien** post was stormed and its garrison, a puppet company, completely wiped out. A puppet relief column of the size of two companies supported by a U.S. detachment was then engaged and decimated, losing 250 men killed or wounded, 14 armoured cars destroyed and one chopper cut down. The **Cau Ben** military training camp (20km South of Tay Ninh) suffered heavy losses. So did the U.S. base at Trang Lon 5km Northwest of Tay Ninh.

A real hecatomb of armoured cars occurred on Aug. 19 in 5 battles on the route linking **Tay Ninh** to **Dau Tieng**. At 8.05 a.m., a column of M.113 tanks and armoured troop carriers was completely destroyed near **Cau Khoi** (see map) while in **Cha La**, another 14-vehicle convoy met with a similar fate at 4 p.m. One hour later, an armoured company of the 5th Regiment, U.S. 25th Infantry, was put out of action at **Ben Cui** near Dau Tieng: 22 vehicles were reduced to scrap metals. Meanwhile, two other combats took place at 1 and 2 p.m. at **Bau Me**, resulting in 15 other vehicles being destroyed and 2 tanks seized intact by the patriotic forces. All told, 74 U.S. tanks and armoured cars were put out of action and all men on board killed or wounded.

On Aug. 20, following a heavy barrage of artillery fire, the P.L.A.F. charged and took the **Trang Sup** position defending the **Trang Lon** base, wiping out the U.S. company-sized garrison. On the same day, a U.S. mechanized infantry company sustained serious losses between Cha La and Cau Khoi. Next day, during 3 battles in the same sector, many enemy troops, most of them G.I.'s, were killed or wounded. A U.S. company was wiped out and 2 armoured vehicles destroyed at Ben Cui and 16 other armoured cars destroyed and one copter downed 2km Southeast of Cau Khoi.

On the night of Aug. 21 to Aug. 22, the patriotic forces launched 3 more successful attacks in this area, the most brilliant taking place on 4km Southeast of Cha La where following the shelling of a U.S. encampment and a U.S. artillery site, Liberation infantrymen completely destroyed the **Go Cay Da** position, wiping out a U.S. mechanized infantry companies and wrecking 18 105-mm and 155-mm howitzers and 30 armoured cars.

The battle count showed that fighting in Tay Ninh province from August 18 to August 22 had cost the U.S.-Saigonese forces more than 1,000 men killed, wounded or taken prisoner and more than 150 armoured cars and tanks and 24 105-mm and 155-mm howitzers destroyed.

ENEMY POSITIONS IN SAIGON AND SOME 20 OTHER CITIES AND URBAN CENTRES UNDER ATTACK AGAIN

WESTERN news agencies reported that on Aug. 22 in two pre-dawn poundings with a 15-minute interval, the P.L.A.F. hit several targets in **Saigon**, such as the puppet Navy Headquarters, the puppet National Assembly building, the puppet Prime Minister's Office, a U.S. military post, port installations, etc...

It was also reported that the day before, the patriotic forces had mounted dozens of attacks against enemy military and administrative installations in some 20 other cities and urban centres. Military sector headquarters came under fire at least in 8 provincial capitals, 7 of them in the Mekong Delta. **Bien Hoa** air base as well as 3 others in the Mekong Delta

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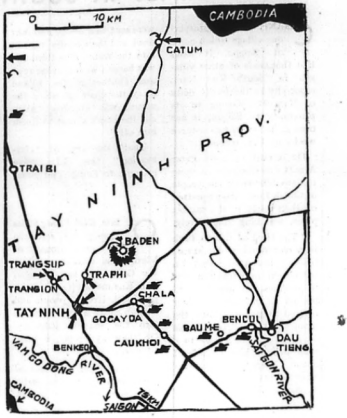

SOUTH VIET NAM PATRIOTS SCORE TREMENDOUS SUCCESS IN TAY NINH

FURTHER PROOF OF P.L.A.F. HUGE CAPACITIES

ON the eve of the 23rd anniversary of the August Revolution, South Viet Nam patriots launched on the night of August 17 a series of sweeping attacks against many enemy military targets. Initial reports said that from that night to August 20, in a theatre of operation 70km long from north to south and 40km large from east to west, at least one thousand G.I.s and puppet troops were put out of action, 108 tanks and armoured cars destroyed or damaged. A mixed battalion, a U.S. company and a puppet company were wiped out (See *Military Operations*.)

What are the first conclusions to be drawn from these events with regard to the present military situation in South Viet Nam?

FIRST, these dramatic renewed onslaughts of the P.L.A.F. supply another proof of the rapid growth of the patriotic forces in organization and technique command and fighting particularly in the "art" of wiping out the enemy's manpower and war means. In fact, in these battles there existed a very smooth co-ordination between infantry, artillery and other arms, between the concentrated use of the fire-power of big ordnance pieces with the striking force of storming footmen. The P.L.A.F. have thus completely crippled the enemy's reaction. They were able to carry through many tasks at a time: putting out of action a great number of adversaries, destroying big quantities of their war means such as armoured vehicles, electronic equipments, holding the ground and recuperating the weapons left behind by the enemy in his flight. The Tra Phi battle in which 400 G.I.s bit the dust, 34 tanks and armoured vehicles and six 105mm cannons were destroyed, is typical of the rather uncommon capabilities of the P.L.A.F. insofar as the annihilation of enemy forces is concerned. The Go Cay Da engagement where 2 U.S. companies were wiped out, 30 armoured vehicles and 18 heavy guns were destroyed in one hour's close fight is another no less convincing illustration of those qualities. The 19th of August was also another disaster for the aggressors who, according to initial reports, lost 74 M.41 tanks and M.113 armoured carriers destroyed or burnt in five actions. In three of these which took place at 8.05, 16 and 17 hours, three enemy columns lost all men and material.

WHILE the P.L.A.F. were thrashing the enemy, local Buddhists, Caodaists and Catholics rose up, punished cruel agents and thugs, henchmen of the aggressors and quislings, smashed their coercive apparatus and set up the people's power. They even maintained control over many districts of Tay Ninh town, the provincial capital, as well as many district capitals. They sabotaged roads and rendered them unusable for enemy vehicles. Their active part in the battle is further evidence of the huge popular support enjoyed by the South Viet Nam N.F.L.

IT is to be recalled that the last three months, the U.S. command had foreseen that Tay Ninh would be the target of attacks by the P.L.A.F. and had since taken the necessary precautions by daily pouring hundreds of tons of bombs from B.52s on localities suspected to be the starting points of the coming onslaughts. The new wave of offensives shows unmistakably that the P.L.A.F. are always capable of striking at the enemy when and where they think fit, which denotes a particularly advantageous strategic position, a guaranty of victory for the holder. It also testifies to the failure of the new strategy of the U.S. in South Viet Nam to "clear and hold."

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